

270
72 115

A

NARRATIVE

of some of the

SUFFERINGS

of

Justin

J. P.

in the

CITY

of

R O M E

LONDON,

Printed for *Thomas Simmons* at the Ball and mounth
near Aldersgate, 1661.

NARRATIVE

of some of the

QUESTIONS

of

J. P.

in the

CITY

of

ROME

LONDON

Printed for J. P. & Co. at the Bull and Mouth
near Aldgate, 1841.

A Narrative of some of the Sufferings of J. P. in the City of Rome.

It moved in my Soul to leave a remembrance unto all Generations of my succeeding seed, of the mercies of God unto me in the days of my Captivity and sore distresse in the City of Rome, that they all which may live in the feeling of the Power of the Spirit of Salvation, may taste of the sweet fragrance of the thanks-giving and praises of my poor soul yielded and offered unto my Maker, my compassionate God and my King, and in their true sense of the same joyce also in the spirit of praise, which liveth without end, Amen.

When I was cast into Prison, because I loved the Souls of mine enemies; when I was separated like Joseph from all my Brethren, and oppressed in a strange Land; when I was left like a poor silly Dove without a mate; when I was desperately, ignominiously and reproachfully contemned, scorned and mocked of all men, both Priests and People that came to view me in my misery; when I was extremely abused in all things which bore the shew of help unto me; When I was held in Irons untill one of my Limbes failed me; When I was divers times cruelly tortured and tormented in my weak bodily body; When I was tempted with Wine and with

A

Women

Women, and with meat, much, little, and now
with riches and honour, and with all delights
and pleasures that ever my heart might desire.
When I was troubled with gally-slavery, with tor-
tures on the scales of my fate, with death by fire,
and also subtilly by poyson; When I was thus an-
unspeakably more proved by flatteries, threats,
and tortures, to turn from the Lord my God unto
a Graven Image; when the hunters night and day
hunted me like a forsaken Partridge in the barren
Grounds, and like an alone Quail in the stubble
fields; when I was as a *Kris* in a bush of Thorns,
and the Eagles watched to tear me; when
Wolves howled to prey upon me by night, and
Lions most terribly roared to destroy me day
after day; when the Seas raged on every side, and
floods of the deeps heaped themselves like im-
moveable Mountains upon my back; when the
wrath of Hell gaped as a gulf to swallow me in her
belly of envy; when nets of Iron were spread
about my habitation, and snares of steel set
round my dwelling; when Serpents crept over
my body, and frogs danced on my face, when
Scorpions ran over my head, and Dragons spat fire
in my face, when the Spirits of infernal places en-
camped about me, and surrounded me with their
dreadful flames; when they pierced me as with
Speares in my side, and that I daily felt their malice
like the pains of arrows stuck fast in my heart,
when they strove to slay me with vexation, and to
murder me with the torments of oppression; when
they spued out their venomous night and day
the vileness of words against me, with bitterness of
cursing.

cursing in their mouths, and abominable oaths and
 blasphemies against the Righteous God of my Sal-
 vation; when they joyced and took pleasure to
 oppresse my righteous soul with oaths, and sought
 to vex me with numberles lies; when by their num-
 berles unheard of wickednesses they laboured to
 make me languish in sorrow and perish in extream
 misery; when their Spirits came upon me in the
 night season, and often almost strangled me to
 death in my sleep; Then had I dreadful Visions
 by day, and most terrible dreams by night; then
 was my soul in a Sea of sorrows, and in an im-
 mence Ocean of miseries; then was my bread Af-
 fliction and my drink extream Tribulation; then
 did I water my Couch with my tears, and sowed
 them as seed on the ground; For then the Moun-
 tains did press me down with their weights, and
 rocks did even crush me to pieces; then did I make
 sobbs as an ease to my soul, and sustained my self
 with the grievousness of groanes; then were sigh-
 ings as a spouse in my bed, and tears as my solace
 with her; And oh then did I cry unto my God and
 poured out my complaints before him; I wrestled
 with his Angel night and day, and cast the Ri-
 vers of my bleedings on his Altar; And then he
 shewed me *the sorrows of his Seed in the Earth, and the*
oppression of his righteous life by all the Nations thereof;
 And though I could but discern the least part
 thereof, yet it was infinitely *more then my sufferings;*
 and then he made me put my neck to the yoke
 thereof, and my back to its heavy burthens, so that
 pangs were added to my paines, and mourning
 multiplied to my miseries, which made me roare

for

for the revelation of mercies, dropping my tears under the *cherubim* wings of his eternal compassion, and stood before him in the nakedness of my immaturity, and in the simplicity of patience and content; for he stripped me as bare as I was born, and then his righteous eye saw that I murmured not against him in all my Tribulations, but cald all things good from his hand, and gave thanks to him for all my sufferings, as I did for my daily bread.

So it came to pass in his time that he remembered me his bruised Babe, and had compassion on me his wounded worm, and moved in his jealousie for me, whose righteous and pitiful Soul could not alwaies bear the grief of my sorrows, without stretching out his hand to help me, because he saw that without him, I was as a helpless Lamb among Lyons: And therefore he passed in a secret dread through Hell, and brake the bars of her gates, he cut a path through the Clouds of her blacknesse, and divided a way through her burnings; he scattered Mountains like dust with a whirlwind, and dispersed Hills like the chaff of the summer threshing floore; he made the raging seas as smooth as oyl, and the blustering storms as the gentle North-wind; he clave the craggy Rocks all under, and made an easie path through the drowning deeps; for that he had pity on my broken heart, and most lamentable bleeding soul, knowing that I sought not Riches nor Honour, but the Remission of the sins and the Salvation of the poor Souls of mine enemies; nay, I desired not any thing in Heaven or Earth, besides the glory and praise of his eternall holy

holy Name, and knew the Innocency of my simple
 Soul which cannot touch a worme to destroy it,
 and saw the openness of my heart of love, which
 can lay down my life for the very vilest of all my op-
 pressors, whetefore he smote on the brazen earth,
 and tore down the bulwarks of her strength, and
 then he lifted up my head above the deeps, and set
 my feet upon the Tower of his strength, and made
 my meekness as the Arrows of his quiver, and my
 patience as Spears of the battle, and sent my Shafts
 among Armies, and dispersed their camps as smoaks,
 and hosts that were as strong as Steele he made be-
 come as towne before the breath of my mouth,
 who formed my nostrils as a bellows, and my
 mouth as a flaming Furnace; So he gave me the
 Standard of the battle and put the Ensigne of victo-
 ry in my hand, who instead of fear gave me won-
 derful courage, and instead of weakness, strength
 and valour, and took pleasure to visit me with
 mercies and with comfortable promises of Life;
 In his time of my sore distress at midnight he ap-
 peared at my Prison window in a flame of Fire, which my
 fleshly eyes beheld, and then he smote upon the forehead
 thereof, which my fleshly ears did hear; So then I re-
 membered him (in the spirit) that becom my God, and
 that he watched over me in the dayes of my affliction;
 moreover when my foes did oppress me, He rered
 with Thunder in the City, which made the houses
 and their foundations to tremble as a leaf, and made
 mine enemies to cry with fear, and when as I was laid
 down in my Prison, with mine eyes on the chain of my
 leg, he cast in a horse of fire, in manner and likeness of a
 Travelling which smote upon the cord of horse, which was
 fastened to a Ring in a wall, by which he strengthened his
 might

might, and the wonderfulness of his glorious power, and by the same did seal unto me his Covenant; for he swore unto me by his life that he would break my bonds assunder, and gave me Testimony upon Testimony of his faithfulness; and in the midst of my misery he humbled himself as if he were lower than the Son of man, and came down and spake to me as a man doth speak with his friend, and so took delight to break my heart assunder, that he might bind me up in his bosome of pleasure; He divers times plainly told me saying, fear not worm Jacob, for I am thy God, no Incantment shall ever prevail against thee, no weapon formed against thee shall prosper; Besides he carried me through deep places where he discovered unto me many wonders, yea, and shewed me things so wonderful for me; At the glory, the glory, the marvellous glory of his wonderful works my weakness can never declare, neither can I utter the proportion of his ravishing joyes whereof he made me to drink at the Fountain in abundance.

And when he had proved me by manifold waies much more then any mortal man could imagine, and seeing that in my sorrows I forsook him not, but grew nearer and nearer unto him, and in my joyes I swelled not above him but more and more feared and trembled that I might live alwaies humble beneath him, and his tender pittie taking upon him the foreends of the sufferings of my poor earthly Tabernacle, at last through the way that he had broken, through the hard places reached me with the bowels of his servants, and with the prophecies of many of his people, who spake in the one Spirit unto me the very things which he covenanted unto me in the time of my extreame misery,

which

which was as a seven-fold Stal in my soul, confirming
 his Testimonies unto mee, and then he raised up his
 little babe my dear Brother Thomas, ¹⁶²⁰ to see his ten-
 der soul nearer unto my sufferings, and made him take
 my burthen on his back, and the yoke of my Tribu-
 tion on his neck, and made him sip of my sore sorrows
 and drink of the bleedings of my grief; and in the
 tender bowels of his loving kindness and mercies, made
 him attend me with constant consolations, and with re-
 newed comforts of his life; yea he made him unto me
 as the compassions of a Father to his Child; and as the
 bowels of a Mother to her babe, who took it as the de-
 light of his heart to send swiftly unto me the *refreshing*
streams of my Brethren and Sisters *brooks*; Ah he was
 as dayly bread to my hunger, and as the best wine to
 my thirst; yea the most high God made him as the
dew of Heaven on my locks, and as the *drop of the cloud*
 on my skin; who overtook me with a Sea of his love,
 and swallowed me in the deeps of his affection, so that
 he was a joy to me in my tedious bonds, and gladnesse
 unto me whilst I was grieved of mine enemies, and
 till he counted the most of his love too little, and the
 weight of his affection a thing too light in the bal-
 lance, whose bowels did break me assunder, and the
 flames of his love melted me into many streams. More-
 over the everlasting memories of my God did stir up the
 bowels of affection of his tender babes, named in the
 year, *Jane Barker* and *Charles Barker* to come to visit me
 whilst I was as forsaken of all hand, who in the op-
 rightness of their hearts and perfect faith in my God
 of wonders, came travelling through hard and
 me, bruised in their righteous souls in affliction, and
 fasting, in weakness and sore pain, and feared not
 their bodies to the utmost due to the satisfaction

in their pilgrimage untill they arrived to Rome, where
 Charles offered his life to ransom me, and both of them
 entered into captivity for the love which they bore to
 my life; and Charles won the irons of my bonds in
 fallings and sore sufferings, which melted my heart
 like wax, and made me drop down the tears of mine
 eyes, which precious vibrations of my Fathers eternal
 love manifested unto me in tender compassion
 through the yearning bowels of these his beloved babes
 must never be forgotten of me, but remembered of me
 in a soul abounding with thanksgiving and spirit of
 praise of the most high; yea for these and all his un-
 speakable favours I will laud, praise, honour, renown
 and magnify his holy Name and power for ever and e-
 ver, Amen: For his mercies are over all his works, and
 his compassions are without bounds or measure; and in
 the belly of a continual broken heart desire I to dwell,
 where I may evermore honour my God with my tears;
 for oh, oh, I am overcome, I am overcome of his infinite
 mercies towards me.

And this I leave for posterities and generations fol-
 lowing, that my seeds seed and its seedling seed may
 know the love wherewith my God hath loved me, both
 in himself and in the bowels of these his babes, yea let
 the record of it be had in *Israel* unto the end of dayes
 and time in the glory of the God of my salvation, and
 and let the day of the birth of these innocent Lambs be
 had in memory of blessing in the hearts of *Sion*: Seed
 for ever, whom the Lord God of my life made like so
 many long lines of his unsearchable loving kindness
 which reached me in the desperate mother calamities,
 and in the lamentable daies of my long suffering. Oh
 blessed, blessed, blessed, praised and magnified be the
 God of my salvation, even for ever and ever, Amen.

Write in Rome Prison of Madams. JOHN.

The third of the sixth Month, 1601.
*from the Cannon Goal in Burckdon in France, about
 thirty leagues from Dover, where I am a sufferer for
 speaking the Word of the Lord to two Priests, saying, All
 Idols, all Idolatries and all Idol Priests must perish.*

Dearly beloved, as the streames of an endless
 Fountain this goes through me, which causeth
 my banks to overflow plentifully with the pleasant
 and delightful fruits of love, which gently streams and
 flows towards thee my Sister and my Brother; but as
 thou art my elder in my Fathers house, in the time of
 the exercise of thy strength didst freely minister to
 my weakness, which can never be forgotten by me,
 though I am at present, and have several times (since I
 saw thy face) been shut up in strong prisons; yet it
 hath not nor cannot blot out the remembrance of
 thee from me; For I can truly say in the fear of my
 Father, thou art as an engraven Adamant within my
 heart, and though through the natural I may speak
 this, it is because I feel thee in the eternal; I feel thee
 in the immortal, I feel thee in the unchangable, which
 was before the changable was, nor shadows of turn-
 ing were; my heart is exceeding full in me towards
 thee, unexpressable, undeclarable doth my measure
 flow towards thee; Therefore feel, feel me, and there
 only where I may be felt receive me, and as thou dost
 feel me, so let me be received and accepted in thy
 tender bosome.

And now it is in my heart to show thee in brief som-
 thing of the service I have had since I saw thy face,
 though it was not a little desired by me when I re-
 turned from O.S. but I being drawn in my life towards
 London, and my former service lay much before me, I

choosed the Seas, and it was so with me, that I was much pressed in my spirit to pass away. And when I came to *London* I found in my life I might have stayed some time longer there than I did, but fearing lest it might be an offence to any, I took my leave of friends, and passed away towards *Dover*, and it being wholly in my heart to do the will of my God, whatsoever I suffered, and after I had some service for the Lord in *Dover*, which was well accepted of him, I took also my leave of friends at *Dover* and imbarqued my self for *Calis*, yet at that very instant I felt something in my life against going at that time; yet for my afore said reason I passed away, and after my arrival at *Calis* the Lord would not permit me to go forward, but by a mighty power was constrained to return back to *Dover*. It was also shewed me something of a woman going with me, to which I was constrained to consent, and returned to *Dover*, though it was in great trouble, yet the power of the Almighty was with me, and I had not liberty to leave that Town; and after about a month waiting, there came a dear servant of the most high God, whose name according to the world is *Jane Staker*, who was commanded of the Lord for to go to the place where *John Perce* was, and immediately so soon as she arrived in the meeting in *Dover*, I was shewed that she was to go over the Seas before I spoke one word to her; and suddenly after, I was like a man released out of Prison and had perfect freedom to pass away, which accordingly I did; and in relation to this Voyage I shall tell thee how it was with me before I returned into *England* the first time. For the Lord did shew it me before I came to *Paris* the first time. Therefore I wait in my letter to thee, which I left with *Anthony Walker*, saying that I am given up if

to Rome. So the same day my dear companion came;
 I passed away and set forwards towards Paris as afore-
 said, it being the same way we were both shewed we
 should pass before we saw one anothers faces, and ar-
 riving at Paris I was drawn in my life to the Pro-
 testants meeting which I formerly told thee of, but
 there was much enmity against me, so that I had not
 the service I might have had at that time; but we be-
 ing both drawn in our lives to pass away onwards of
 our journey towards Rome, we soon set forwards in
 the good will of the Lord, whose presence was won-
 derfully with us; for truly as the dew distills morn-
 ing by morning upon the tender grass, so did blessing
 and mercy distill upon our tender souls, so that we
 were kept over all fears, as we kept in the fear of our
 God, and as in his dread we walked, our enemies were
 dreaded before us, for we passed thorow the Nation
 of France without any molestation or trouble; and
 coming to Mordellin (from whence I sent thee a let-
 ter) we embarked for *Biskone*, not having opportunity
 for Legorn, as I did purpose; and after some 14 dayes
 to and fro with sore storms we arrived safe to our
 Port, and from thence we took our journey by Land
 to Legorn, the Lord preserving us thro many trou-
 ments and dangerous places; and arriving at Legorn, we
 had not of monies the value of an English penny left to
 buy us a little bread; But the Lord had not left us, for
 was near us in the time of need; and ordered it so that
 we wanted not a piece of bread. For though it was
 that night when we arrived, we met with a dear friend
 called William Ward, master of a Vessel, who received
 us with gladness of heart, he having other two friends
 with him who were also Sea-men; and after we had
 stayed some time with them, and being refreshed one
 in

in another, we took our leaves taking courage as he
 did in his voyage to *Rome*, after he had seen the Bro-
 thers; and arriving safe at *Rome* we were drawn
 our lives directly to the place where the dearly be-
 loved J. P. was, and coming to the Prison door, I en-
 quired for him, and having answer of his being there
 I desired for to speak with him, but it would not be
 permitted us; So it was said in me write unto him, which
 I did, the which he answered us in the fulness of love
 which refreshed us after our weary steps; For our
 souls were refreshed one in another, though one ano-
 thers faces we had never seen to the outward, and
 then we being kept in a holy fear not to do nor act one
 way nor other, but as we were moved of the Lord
 least we should add to his bonds, I say being thus kept
 we were delivered out of the snare of the fowler, who
 secretly lay in wait to betray our innocency; And af-
 ter a little time the Lord shewed me I should go to the
 inquisition, which I did, and enquired for the *Inquisitor*
 as I was shewed of the Lord I should do; And when
 I spoke to him, I told him *I was come from England* to
 see my Brother J. P. to which he answered, I should see
 him, and appointed me to come to a certain place cal-
 led *Minerva*, and there saith he, I will pleasure you libe-
 ty of the Cardinalls to see him; he had me also to the in-
 quisition office, where he asked many questions of me
 concerning our Religion, to which I answered in the
 simplicity of my heart in the fear of the Lord; and at
 the appointed time I came to the place aforesaid, and
 there I was shewed what further I should do, which
 was to tender my body for my Brother, and so from
 that time I hardly missed opportunity to speak to them
 as often as they met, for their manner was thus to meet
 once a week, the one time at *Minerva* and the other
 time

at *Monte-Cavallo* where the Popes own dwelling
was, where I also did the like, more then once, which
brought them up against me, in great enmity; And
I was perswaded both by Jews and others, to
save our selves, their enmity grew so much against us,
that they would not suffer us to give in a paper at the
door to our dear Brother, after some time passed; and
after that the Lord required me to go to the Jews Sy-
nagogue; where I had been several times before, and
declared glad tidings to them from the mouth of the
Lord; and after that I had been but a little time a-
mongst them, the word of the Lord came to me say-
ing, *thou shalt be taken at Minerva, and whereas it is com-
monly reported in this place, that John Luffe starved him-
self to death, thou shalt fast for a Testimony against them,*
but it was so they had often cast his death upon me,
saying he fasted 19 dayes, and the 20th day he died,
which thing grieved me many times; And it came to pass
according to the word of Lord, I was taken 19 dayes
after at the said place where the Lord told me I should;
and from thence I was carried to the Inquisition,
where I was shut up close, and after I had been there
3 dayes, the Lord said to me *Thou must go to the Puzza-
relli* which was the Prison or Hospital of mad men,
where our dear Brother was prisoner; and it was also
said unto me, *thou shalt also speak to the Pope;* And at the
17 dayes end, I was led from the Inquisition towards
the other Prison, and by the way I met the Pope carri-
ed in great pomp, as it was the good will of the Lord
that I should speak unto him, men could not prevent
me for I ran him towards the foot of a bridge, where I
was something nigh him, and when he came against
me, the people being on their knees on each side of
him, I cried to him with a loud voyce in the *Italian*
tongue

THE END

longer to do the thing he was told to do; which
moment and whilst I was speaking the man whom
we had no power to take me away until I fasted,
and then he had me to prison where my dear
Brother was, where I fasted about 20 days as well
against that bloody Generation. For in my fit
Lord sheweth what they had done with John
that true and faithful servant of his, for he sheweth
they had destroyed him. Now in the time of my
fasting it could not be perceived by any outward ap-
pearance that I did fast, as many of themselves did so
that I looked better then when I did eat, and can
not say that my flesh did decay at all, I
strengthened often times by the good word of
Lord which he speaketh throw his faithful suffer-
ing Lamb to me, in the time that we had liberty to go
unto the court, my dear Sister being brought to
the Inquisition, where she was retained from thence
I was brought from thence, and from thence
brought to the same Prison where we were, and
after my fast the Lord by an out-stretched arm wrought
our deliverance, being condemned to perpetual
slavery, if ever we returned again unto Spain.
from Spain to London to north CHARLES BAKER
His grace has graciously given us much rest and
joy, and praise thou the Lord be all his mercies
marked in our hearts, through the blood of the Son
holding the powerful mark of his sovereign hand
partaking of his love, his compassion, love and
merciful kindness, to all his faithful people, who are
washed and sanctified by the blood of his Son Jesus
Christ, God over all, Father and Son, Amen.

JOHN

THE END

THE END